

Message Text

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TAGS: SOPN, US, EG, PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT EVANS AND NOVAK COLUMN, WASHINGTON POST, OCTOBER 23, HEADED "THE FORD-SADAT SPLIT."

2. A DANGEROUS CHASM IS WIDENING BETWEEN PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT'S PRIVATE CLAIM THAT VAST AMERICAN ARMS HAVE BEEN PROMISED TO EGYPT AND THE FORD ADMINISTRATION'S PUBLIC ASSERTION THAT EGYPT WILL RECEIVE VIRTUALLY NO ARMS AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER THE 1976 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

3. ALTHOUGH OFFICIALS HERE DOWNGRADE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ARMS-FOR-EGYPT ISSUE, IT COULD UNDERMINE SADAT'S HISTORIC STATE VISIT HERE NEXT WEEK, THE FIRST BY AN EGYPTIAN LEADER TO THE US SINCE THE NASSER REVOLUTION 23 YEARS AGO.

4. SADAT HAS MADE NO SECRET WITHIN HIS OWN GOVERNMENT OF UNCLASSIFIED

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HIS CLAIM THAT THE \$5 BILLION ARMS SHOPPING-LIST HE IS

BRINGING HERE WILL BE GIVEN MORE THAN JUST CURSORY STUDY BY SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER AND SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JAMES SCHLESINGER. INDEED, SADAT--NOW FAR OUT ON A LIMB

INSIDE THE ARAB WORLD AND UNDER INCREASING ATTACK FOR MAKING A SEPARATE SINAI DEAL WITH ISRAEL--HAS TOLD HIS MILITARY COMMANDERS THAT IMPORTANT PARTS OF HIS SHOPPING LIST WILL BE FULFILLED IN WASHINGTON.

5. IN FACT, HOWEVER, KISSINGER WENT PUBLIC IN AN OBVIOUSLY INTENTIONAL WAY ON "MEET THE PRESS" OCT. 12 TO UNDERCUT SADAT'S SHOPPING LIST EVEN BEFORE IT IS HANDED TO HIM. THE US, HE SAID, WOULD NOT BE PREPARED "AT THIS MOMENT TO MAKE ANY SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS OF MILITARY AID.,

6. ONLY SADAT AND KISSINGER KNOW WHAT ASSURANCES, IF ANY, THE SECRETARY GAVE THE EGYPTIAN LEADER ABOUT US ARMS DELIVERIES BUT THE FACT THAT SADAT IS USING THE ARMS ISSUE INSIDE HIS OWN GOVERNMENT AS POLITICAL UNDERPINNING TO SHORE UP HIS CONTROVERSIAL SINAI AGREEMENT SHOWS HOW WORRIED HE REALLY IS ABOUT RESENTMENT AGAINST HIM WITHIN THE ARAB WORLD SHARED BY SOME POWER CENTERS IN HIS OWN COUNTRY.

7. SADAT'S POLITICAL DANGER WILL BECOME INSTANTLY CLEAR WHEN THE FORD ADMINISTRATION SENDS ITS LONG-DELAYED MIDDLE EAST AID PACKAGE TO CONGRESS, NOW SCHEDULED FOR SUBMISSION DURING THE VERY WEEK THAT SADAT WILL BE PRESIDENT FORD'S GUEST. THAT PACKAGE WILL ASK ABOUT \$2.3 BILLION FOR ISRAEL (WHICH CONTINUES TO OCCUPY LARGE ARAB TERRITORIES SEIZED IN 1967) AND AROUND \$500 MILLION FOR EGYPT.

8. THE HUGE DISPARITY BETWEEN THOSE TWO FIGURES (EVEN THOUGH THE AMOUNT FOR EGYPT IS FAR HIGHER THAN EVER BEFORE) WILL FEED ARAB CRITICS NOW ACCUSING SADAT OF SELLING OUT SYRIA AND THE PALESTINIANS TO GET A SEPARATE SINAI AGREEMENT OF HIS OWN.

9. BUT EVEN HARSHER TROUBLES AWAIT SADAT WHEN CONGRESS STARTS HACKING AWAY AT THE PRESIDENT'S AID REQUEST. WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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CONGRESS TAKING AN EXTRAORDINARILY CRITICAL LOOK EVEN AT KISSINGER'S PLEDGES OF MILITARY AID FOR ISRAEL, THE ADMINISTRATION'S HALF-A-LOAF FOR EGYPT IS CERTAIN TO BE WHITTLED DOWN.

10. THAT UNDERLINES SADAT'S POLITICAL DANGER AND EXPOSURE INSIDE THE ARAB WORLD. FOR YEARS, THE US LOBBIED HIM TO BREAK HIS ONCE-INTIMATE MOSCOW CONNECTION, WHICH HE DID

IN 1972. THAT VIRTUALLY CUT HIM OFF FROM SOVIET MILITARY AID, WHILE ISRAEL WENT ON RECEIVING HUGE AMOUNTS OF AMERICAN MILITARY AID.

11. THEN KISSINGER, BLOCKED BY ISRAEL FROM ATTEMPTING A

SETTLEMENT OF THE PALESTINE QUESTION LAST YEAR, PERSUADED SADAT TO LET THE US MEDIATE THE SINAI DEAL WITH THE IMPLIED UNDERSTANDING THAT IT WOULD BE QUICKLY FOLLOWED BY AN ISRAELI-SYRIAN DEAL ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. INSTEAD, THERE HAS BEEN NO PROGRESS AT ALL TOWARD US MEDIATION BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL AND NOW RELATIONS BETWEEN EGYPT AND SYRIA HAVE REACHED THEIR LOWEST POINT EVER.

12. THE CLEAR MEANING OF THIS IS THAT BOTH KISSINGER AND SADAT UNDERESTIMATED THE PAN-ARAB REACTION TO THE SEPARATE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI SINAI AGREEMENT.

13. WITH ONLY THE BAREST PROSPECT NOW THAT KISSINGER WILL BE ABLE TO PROMOTE ISRAELI-SYRIAN NEGOTIATIONS--OR MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND BOTH SYRIA AND THE PALESTINIANS--TILL AFTER THE 1976 ELECTION, SADAT REMAINS ON A LIMB. ACCORDINGLY, HE DESPERATELY WANTS TO SHOW THAT HIS NEW WASHINGTON CONNECTION WILL PRODUCE NEW AMERICAN WEAPONS TO GIVE HIS EXPOSED POSITION SOME COVER.

14. THAT HE WILL NOT GET THEM CONSIGNS HIM TO A LONG AND LONELY VIGIL ON THE END OF THE LIMB. (END TEXT) INGERSOLL

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